

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 11 would be allowable over the prior art if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-25 are pending in this Application. By this Amendment, the features of claim 11 have been incorporated into claim 1. Also, claims 6, 18, and 20 have been amended to correct their form. Claims 22-25 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Finally, the specification has been amended to make appropriate correction to the Title, and to correct the Drawings, as required by the Examiner. No new matter has been introduced as a result of this amendment.

Drawing Amendments

The Examiner has objected to the pending drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). Specifically, the Examiner has argued that the reference numbers 16, 17, 16', and 17' of the drawings are not mentioned in the description. Applicants have amended Figures 1 and 2 to delete the reference numbers 16, 17, 16' and 17'. This amendment is shown in Replacement drawing sheets and Annotated drawing sheets included as Attachment A

Claim Rejections

A. Response to rejection of claims 6, 18, 20, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In response to the rejection of claims 6, 18, 20, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite, appropriate correction has been made in claims 6, 18, and 20. Claim 25 has been canceled. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

B. Response to rejection of claims 1-10 and 12-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Govoni et al.

In response to the rejection of claims 1-10 and 12-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,728,353 of Govoni et al. ("Govoni-I") in view of European Patent EP1012195 of Govoni et al. ("Govoni-II"), Applicants have incorporated the features of claim 11 into claim 1. Inasmuch as the Examiner has indicated the allowability of claim 11, Applicants respectfully submit that the current claims stand in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection respectfully is requested.

C. Response to rejection of claims 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over VanDun et al.

In response to the rejection of claims 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,787,608 of VanDun et al. ("VanDun"), Applicants have cancelled claims 22-25, thereby rendering this Response moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection respectfully is requested

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should the Examiner have questions or comments regarding this application or this Response, Applicants' attorney would welcome the opportunity to discuss the case with the Examiner.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge U.S. PTO Deposit Account 08-2336 in the amount of any fee required for consideration of this Amendment.

This is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed March 26, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerben Meier et al.

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(Date)

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage thereon with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 12, 2008.

John A. Gutta
September 12 2008
Date of Signature

ATTACHMENT A

Replacement drawing sheets and Annotated drawing sheets